

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Archway Schools Move to Full Remote Learning Model
Both schools temporarily close in-school instruction until December 14th.

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ATCO, NEW JERSEY (November 23, 2020) – This morning Archway Programs received confirmation of positive COVID-19 exposures on [the Archway Schools'](#) Main Campus located in Atco, New Jersey. Additional employees from the Archway Lower School campus tested positive for COVID-19. School staff has reached out to all employees and all parents and guardians of students who were considered to be in close contact (within 6 feet of distance for 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) via phone and by email. All exposed areas at the school campus have been cleaned and disinfected according to established protocols. As a precautionary measure, all school staff and students from the Archway Schools will be moving to a full remote learning model beginning Tuesday, November 24th, 2020 through Friday, December 11th, 2020.

The decision to temporarily close in-school instruction for the Archway Lower School campus in Waterford Township and for the Archway Upper School campus in Evesham Township was made to ensure everyone's health and safety during the next few weeks. Archway has developed a carefully thought-out plan for what to do in the event a student, client, resident, and/or staff member tests positive, and is now implementing that plan. As part of that plan, the staff members who were confirmed positive, as well as others who may have been exposed through close contact, will need to complete a quarantine period based upon [CDC](#) and [NJ Department of Health](#).

The Archway Schools plan to re-open in-school instruction on Monday, December 14th, 2020, and return back to the current hybrid model with Cohort-A students attending in-person instruction on Monday and Wednesday, Cohort-B students attending in-person instruction on Tuesday and Thursday, with everyone being remote on Friday. The Archway Schools will continue to take necessary precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses and other germs.

“We are all navigating a new normal and trying to do what's best for each of our families. Archway believes that full transparency is critical right now during these unprecedented times. Keeping clear lines of communication with parents and guardians allows us to ensure the health and safety of each of our students and their families,” said Susan Lafferty, Executive Director of the Archway Schools.

When the pandemic modified Archway's Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities in addition to other programs offered throughout the organization, in mid-March, Archway's leadership team immediately began designing a detailed, comprehensive plan to safely re-open the Archway Schools and other programs. Archway's Re-Opening plan is based on guidance and recommendations from the CDC, the state health department and the New Jersey Governor's phased plan to re-open the State of New Jersey. Archway's Re-



Opening Plan is updated frequently based on the evolving changes the pandemic has caused. The Re-Opening Plan as well as fact sheets, helpful resources and updates can be found on Archway's website at www.archwayprograms.org/covid19. This webpage is updated often and includes any changes to programming and services provided throughout Archway Programs.

“Our top priority is to ensure the safety, health and wellness of our staff, individuals we serve and our community. Archway Programs is committed to protecting our students, clients, residents, and employees. I am confident that Archway will continue to push through these uncertain times together, and grow stronger and more resilient,” said George Richards, CEO/CFO of Archway Programs.

Archway Programs has served adults and children with disabilities for over 55 years. Due to the population the organization serves, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to only offer remote learning to our students with learning disabilities and technology difficulties. The parents of our students rely on Archway to provide a detailed learning plan combined with various therapies and/or related services tailored to each student, which in most cases cannot be implemented in a virtual/remote setting. Given these circumstances, Archway Programs made the decision to re-open the Archway Schools' on a hybrid schedule, offering in-school learning (Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) combined with remote learning (Friday). Parents also had the choice to opt for all remote learning. Archway Programs understands that each individualized need is different for each student and made this decision to support parents and give them the choice to choose what is best for their families during these unprecedented times.

The Archway Schools are New Jersey Department of Education Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities (APSSD), serving special needs students' ages three to twenty-one years old, located in South Jersey in Atco (Lower School), Evesham (Upper School), and Camden (Cooper's Poynt). Using a successful model unique to each school, children are provided with a safe, structured and compassionate atmosphere as Archway staff discovers and builds on each child's strengths and helps the kids overcome barriers by teaching coping and social skills. This includes providing students with the skills needed to successfully transition from school to adult life. Students learn skills that will gain them “real world” employment through Archway's Career Education Program, which enables them to overcome their challenges and learn in the classroom and on-the-job, skills necessary to transition from school-to-work and offers a number of vocational and career training opportunities to its students in both the Upper and Lower Schools. Students are given the opportunity to gain this experience by participating in on-campus, off-campus job samplings, cooperative education, sheltered workshops, classroom instruction and job placement.

For more information on Archway Programs, visit www.archwayprograms.org.

Any questions and/or concerns regarding the COVID-19 exposure at the Archway Lower School should be directed to:

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About Archway Programs

Since 1965, Archway Programs has been meeting the individualized needs of thousands of families throughout the state of New Jersey. Archway Programs is a diverse, non-profit, human services organization which includes approved private schools for students with disabilities in addition to several model programs providing unmatched services. Built on a solid foundation of core values, providing safety, possessing compassion and promoting individuality, Archway Programs strives to improve the life of every individual served. Our goal is to ensure that each individual's needs are met and customized services are provided and partnered with passionate, committed and talented professionals in a safe environment. Over 450 individuals are currently employed by Archway Programs and this dedicated and talented staff provides services to over 1,800 children and adults requiring individualized care. Please visit www.archwayprograms.org for more information.



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